

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for discussing this application in a telephone interview on May 19, 2006. Applicants are pleased to present the above amendments, which the Examiner stated would likely overcome the rejection over the Jonsson reference contained in the Final Office Action. Specifically, the amendments clarify that the conferencing system automatically connects the participant to the conferencing system in response to the provided identification information. Claim 26 has been amended to clarify that the conferencing system dials the participant's telephone number.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 19-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jonsson (U.S. Patent 6,272,214). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention differs from the Jonsson reference because the presently claimed invention leaves it to the end-user to control, in real time, when to be connected to a conference by having the end-user click the URL, enter the requested information, and be **automatically connected** to the conference. For example, if the subscriber wants to have a conference call with participants A, B, C, and D on Monday at a set time of 9:00 a.m. the subscriber distributes his/her unique URL to participants A, B, C, and D advising them of the 9:00 a.m. conference call. The conferencing system has no "reservation data" for this conference. Should an individual participant wish to participate in the conference call, the participant clicks on the unique URL at 9:00 a.m. and provides endpoint information describing how they can be contacted for that call. End-users (i.e., subscriber and participants) click the URL when they want the system to connect them, not before. If they want to join five minutes early, they would click at 8:55. If they want to join right at 9:00 a.m., they click at 9:00 a.m. If they want to join five minutes later, they would click at 9:05 a.m. **The end user is automatically connected to the conference, for example, by having the conferencing system connect the end user.**

Jonsson does not appear to teach **automatically connecting** a participant to a conference in response to the participant clicking a URL. According to Jonsson, an invitee clicks a URL and receives a reference identifier and meeting location. The invitee must then join the meeting at the appropriate time and provide the received reference number. *See* Jonsson, col. 3, lines 29-47. For example, **the invitee calls** the personal telephone number and the system decides if the caller is or is not an invitee. *See* col. 5, lines 39-52, which was cited in the Office Action. Alternatively, a party receives an “invitation” message and the party can call the personal number. *See* col. 6, lines 9-26 cited in Office Action. Still alternatively the user of a mobile terminal can respond to the invitation message with a reference number for a fixed terminal which the conference manager can **subsequently** use to set up a connection for the conference. *Id.*

In each of the embodiments described in Jonsson, the invitee has to take some action, beyond clicking the URL and entering the requested information, to join the conference. For example, the invitee has to call and attempt to join the conference. Or the invitee provides the conference manager a number for a fixed terminal, which the conference manager will subsequently use to set up a conference with the terminal. The invitee does not have the opportunity to join the conference **automatically** when the invitee wants **by simply clicking the URL and** entering the requested information.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jonsson (U.S. Patent 6,272,214) in view of Elliott et al. (U.S. Patent 6,690,654). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 24 and 26 are dependent from claim 19. As the Examiner will appreciate, should claim 19 be found allowable over the prior art, claims 24 and 26 are allowable also. Should the Examiner have any question, please do not hesitate to call Applicant's attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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